

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 H-01

NSC-05 /053 W

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P R 291759Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7749

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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MOSCOW HOLD FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY WALDMANN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - UK AIRPORT AND NAVIGATION CHARGES

REF: (A) LONDON 1240; (B) STATE 16003

1. IN US/UK CIVAIR TALKS ON JAN 24 US OBJECTION TO PROPOSED INCREASES IN HEATHROW LANDING CHARGES AND UK NAVIGATION CHARGES WAS RAISED BY US DELEGATION BUT BECAUSE OF SHORT NOTICE IN ADDING THIS ISSUE TO AGENDA FOR TALKS UK SIDE WAS NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SUBJECT DEFINITELY. UK SIDE INDICATED IT WOULD BE WILLING DISCUSS ISSUE OR CONSIDER US PAPER ON SUBJECT AND BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS OF TIME IN JAN 24 TALKS IT WAS LEFT THAT UK WOULD ADVISE US AS TO BEST MEANS BY WHICH WE MIGHT MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN IN OFFICIAL WAY (SEE PARA 1C OF REF A).

2. UKG HAS NOW BEEN BACK TO US TO SAY THAT IF US WISHES PURSUE MATTER, BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO PROPOSE TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF TRADE. DOT WOULD THEN FIELD TEAM FOR TALKS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE EXPERTS FROM BRITISH AIRPORTS AUTHORITY AND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HEATHROW CHARGES

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AND NAVIGATION CHARGES RESPECTIVELY. (ALTHOUGH BAA AND

CAA ARE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES, BOTH TAKE POLICY DIRECTION FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE.) UK WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE SUCH TALKS IN LONDON AT EARLY DATE AND FOR TIME CONVENIENT TO US. ALTERNATIVE TO TALKS COULD BE SUBMISSION OF OFFICIAL PAPER FROM USG SETTING FORTH OUR VIEWS AND ARGUMENTS THEREFORE, BUT THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS EFFECTIVE THAN BILATERAL TALKS.

3. COMMENT: RESPONSIVENESS OF UK OFFICIALS TO PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS WE HAVE RAISED REGARDING INCREASED AIRPORT AND NAVIGATION CHARGES LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SOME AT LEAST WHO SHARE OUR CONCERN AND WOULD WELCOME US CONTRIBUTION TOWARD CASE AGAINST FURTHER INCREASES. HOWEVER, WITHOUT DETAILED INFORMATION ON ECONOMIC RATIONALE FOR CHARGES AT PRESENT AND PROPOSED LEVELS, IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO JUDGE CHANCES OF TURNING BACK PROPOSED INCREASES. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT US FOLLOW-UP ON OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AN ISSUE WHICH HAS RANKLED US CARRIERS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. PLEASE ADVISE.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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